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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/158,728	09/22/1998	STEVEN CRAIG WEIRATHER	310048-355	4296

7590

04/01/2002

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EXAMINER

CHEVALIER, ALICIA ANN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1772

DATE MAILED: 04/01/2002

24

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AS-924

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/158,728

Applicant(s)

WEIRATHER ET AL.

Examiner

Alicia Chevalier

Art Unit

1772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 29-40, 42-48, 62-71 and 142-281 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 29-40, 42-48, 62-71, and 142-281 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION***Election/Restrictions***

1. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Group	Species
Release layer	A. Backing sheet
	B. Liner strips
	C. Liner sheet

If Group B is chosen a further Species election is required;

Group	Species
Facestock type	D. dry laminate facestock
	E. non-dry laminate facestock

If Group D is chosen a further Species election is required;

Group	Species
Edge description	F. printed media directly abut one another and share common edges
	G. one of said liner strips is positioned along an edge of said laminate facestock and extends out therefrom and therealong
	H. the printed media directly abut one another and share common edges and said liner strips are positioned at an angle on the back side of said laminate facestock
	I. the printed media directly abut one another and share common edges and each of said liner strips has wavy curving side edges
	J. the printable media directly abut one another and share common edges and said facestock cut lines define a grid of lines including parallel first cut lines and parallel second cut lines perpendicular to said first cut lines, some of said liner strips cover said second cut lines and other of said liner strips are disposed between adjacent ones of said second cut lines and cross over said first cut lines

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If Group E is chosen a further Species election is required;

Group	Species
Cut lines	K. flexibility cut lines
	L. frame cut lines

If Group C is chosen a further Species election is required;

Group	Species
Additional Features	M. a strip of said laminate facestock at an edge of said laminate facestock is removed to expose a strip of said liner sheet
	N. liner-sheet cut lines extend at an angle on said laminate facestock
	O. said facestock cut lines also define an inner perimeter of a waste border portion having cut lines, which are continuous and run parallel to outside edges of the sheet of printable media, surrounding the printable media and sharing a plurality of at least in part edges of printable media
	P. a lead-in edge of the sheet is calendared to improve feeding of the sheet into a printer or a copier
	Q. an infeed edge, along an entire width of the sheet, is thinner than the body of the sheet
	R. said strips include strips of a first width and strips of a second width which is different than the first width, the strips of the first width being positioned between and parallel to the strips of the second width
	S. a leading-edge cut line on said outer face, through said liner sheet and to said laminate facestock, said leading-edge cut line being disposed about 1/8 to 3/8 inch away from a lead edge of the sheet and extending parallel to the lead edge from one side edge of the sheet to the other, said leading edge cut line providing flexibility to a lead end of the sheet for feeding the sheet into a printer or copier or transport therethrough
	T. at least some but not all of said strips are removed from said laminate facestock before said laminate facestock is fed into a printer for a printing operation on said printable media
	U. at least some of said liner sheet strips extend only part way across said laminate facestock and are removed from said laminate facestock before the sheet is fed into a printer or copier for a printing operation on said first side
	V. the at least in part edges of the printed media directly abut one another and share common edges
	W. printable media directly abut one another and share common edges

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Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, there are no generic claims.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

2. Due to the complexity of the species election/restriction a telephone call was not made to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

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3. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alicia Chevalier whose telephone number is (703) 305-1139. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays

If attempts to reach the Examiner are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Blaine Copenheaver can be reached by dialing (703) 308-1261. The fax phone number for the organization official non-final papers is (703) 872-9310. The fax number for after final papers is (703) 872-9311.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose phone number is (703) 308-0661.

ac

3/26/02


BLAINE COPENHEAVER
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